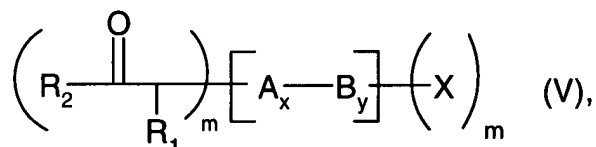


IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims to read as follows.

1. (currently amended): A polymer or block copolymer of formula:



wherein

R₁ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, cyano, phenyl or C₁-C₄alkylphenyl;

R₂ is the radical of an acylated, branched, trihydric alcohol, the radical of a fully or partially acylated, linear or branched, tetrahydric alcohol, the radical of a fully or partially acylated, linear, penta- or hexa-hydric alcohol, the radical of a fully or partially acylated, linear or cyclic C₄-C₆aldose or C₄-C₆ketose or the radical of a fully or partially acylated disaccharide;

A and B are polymer blocks of ethylenically unsaturated monomer units selected from the group consisting of styrenes, acrolein, acrylic or methacrylic acid or salts thereof, acrylic or methacrylic acid anhydrides, acrylic or methacrylic acid C₁-C₂₄alkyl esters, acrylic or methacrylic acid mono- or di-C₁-C₄alkylamino-C₂-C₄alkyl esters, acrylic or methacrylic acid hydroxy-C₂-C₄alkyl esters, acrylic or methacrylic acid (C₁-C₄alkyl)₃silyloxy-C₂-C₄alkyl esters, acrylic or methacrylic acid (C₁-C₄alkyl)₃silyl-C₂-C₄alkyl esters, acrylic or methacrylic acid heterocyclyl-C₂-C₄alkyl esters, acrylic or methacrylic acid esters containing poly-C₂-C₄alkylene glycol ester groups, acrylic or methacrylic acid esters containing poly-C₂-C₄alkylene glycol ester groups esterified by substituted C₁-C₂₄alkoxy groups, acrylic or methacrylic acid amides, acrylic or methacrylic acid mono- or di-C₁-C₄alkylamides, acrylic or methacrylic acid amino-C₂-C₄alkylamides and acrylonitrile;

x and y denote the number of monomer units in the blocks A and B, one value of x and y being zero and the other value being an integer greater than zero, or both values x and y being integers greater than zero;

X is chlorine, bromine or iodine; and

m denotes an integer from three to six.

2. A block copolymer (V) according to claim 1, wherein

R_1 is C_1 - C_3 alkyl or phenyl;

X is chlorine or bromine and

R_2 is the radical of an acylated, branched, trihydric alcohol, the radical of an acylated, linear or branched, tetrahydric alcohol or the radical of a fully or partially acylated, linear, penta- or hexahydric alcohol,

~~A and B are polymer blocks of ethylenically unsaturated monomer units;~~

x and y denote integers greater than zero and represent the number of monomer units in the blocks A and B; and

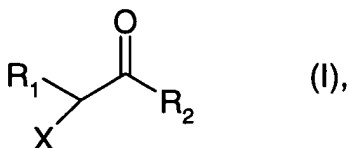
m is three or four.

3. (cancelled).

4. (previously presented): A polymer composition comprising a polymer or block copolymer (V) according to claim 1, wherein R_1 , R_2 , A, B, X, x, y and m are as defined in claim 1, and at least one additive customary in polymer compositions.

5. (cancelled).

6. (previously presented): A process for the preparation of a polymer or block copolymer (V), wherein R_1 , R_2 , A, B, X, x, y and m are as defined in claim 1, in which process ethylene-group-containing aliphatic monomers that form the basis of the polymer blocks A and B are subjected to a polymerisation reaction by atom transfer radical polymerisation (ATRP) in the presence of an α -halocarboxylic acid ester of formula



as polymerisation initiator, wherein R_1 , R_2 and X are as defined in claim 1, and in the presence of an oxidisable transition metal complex catalyst.

7. (cancelled).